

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 18, with the following paragraph.*

Preferably the protected cyclohexandione 1p ~~ketone-functionality P~~ is an acyclic ketal or derivative **1q**, a cyclic ketal or derivative **1r**, **1s** or **1t**, or a hydrazone or oxime **1u**, as shown in Figure 4. More preferably 1p[[P]] is a cyclic ketal **1r**, most preferably 1p[[P]] is a monoethyleneketal **1**, as shown in Figures 2 and 3.